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Stephanie Varnell  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: LOUIS J. WARDLAW

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FILING DATE: JUNE 20, 2003

§ ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  
§ 002663/030490

SERIAL NO.: 10/600,921

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**TITLE: APPARATUS AND METHOD  
FOR ELEVATED  
TEMPERATURE WELD TEST**

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

I hereby declare that my resident, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed in United States Patent Application serial number 10/600,921, and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled "**Apparatus and Method for Elevated Temperature Weld Testing**", the specification of which was filed June 20, 2003..

I hereby swear or affirm that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

## **1.56 DUTY OF DISCLOSURE-INFORMATION MATERIAL TO PATENTABILITY**

A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is cancelled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application; and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentability defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

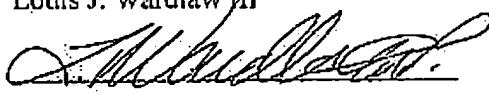
As named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, WILLIAM C. NORVELL, JR., Registration No. 26,212, of the firm of BEIRNE, MAYNARD & PARSONS, L.L.P.. I REQUEST THAT ALL CORRESPONDENCE BE ADDRESSED TO:

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